

REMARKS

The application has been amended to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Section headings are added to the specification.

Claims 1-21 were previously pending in the application. New claim 22 is added. Therefore, claims 1-22 are presented for consideration.

Claims 1-21 were rejected as anticipated by or in the alternative as obvious over ANDERSON et al. 1,665,292 or MATOUKA 3,395,417. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is amended and recites that the tool is structured and arranged for surfacing substantially at the central portion. Claim 1 further provides that the peripheral portion and the return spring means form in combination a means for stabilizing the tool during surfacing. Support for the new limitations can be found on page 4, lines 7-10 and page 13, lines 8-19 of the application as filed.

By way of example, as seen in Figure 3 of the present application in conjunction with the above-noted passages, the surfacing tool of the present invention surfaces an optical surface so that material is substantially removed by the central portion 6a of buffer 6 and the peripheral portions 14 of the buffer 6 have an essentially stabilizing role.

In contrast, as seen in Figure 4 of ANDERSON, it is the peripheral portion of the pad that performs the surfacing function. ANDERSON has two different types of elements that provide flexibility to the peripheral portions that are then applied to the surface to be rubbed. In the embodiments of Figures 1 and 2, ANDERSON teaches flat leaf spring members 10 and in the embodiments 3 and 4 ANDERSON teaches coil springs 20. As disclosed on page 1, lines 79-87 of ANDERSON, these spring members 10, 20 yield to enable the pad to conform to the surface which it engages so that hard to reach surfaces can be reached by the bending of the pads.

Accordingly, ANDERSON teaches that the peripheral portions are used for surfacing the item to be rubbed and do not teach or suggest that the central portion is substantially for surfacing and that the peripheral portion together with the spring means forms a means for stabilizing the tool during surfacing as recited.

Moreover, since ANDERSON uses his peripheral portion, modifying ANDERSON so that the central portion is the rubbing portion would change the principle of operation of ANDERSON and would be completely contrary to the teachings of ANDERSON. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify ANDERSON so that the central portion achieves the surfacing and that the peripheral portions stabilize the tool drilling surfacing as recited.

MATOUKA at column 1, lines 18-21 disclose a pad that is flexible to accommodate the different contours of the workpieces. As also disclosed on column 2, lines 66-70, the pad assembly 10 of MATOUKA can readily conform to the contour of the part to be worked upon.

Accordingly, substantially the entirety of the assembly of MATOUKA is flexible to conform to the contour of a part being worked upon and thus the entirety of the face member works on the surface. MATOUKA does not teach or suggest that the tool is structured and arranged for surfacing substantially at the central portion as recited. MATOUKA also fails to teach or suggest that the peripheral portion and the return spring means form in combination a means for stabilizing the tool during the surfacing.

Since the references do not teach that which is recited and teach away from the present invention, the claims are neither anticipated nor would have been obvious over the cited prior art.

New claim 22 is added and recites that the axis of rotation of the rigid support is permanently colinear or substantially colinear with the normal to the optical surface.

By such recitation, it can be seen that the central portion of the buffer element is in contact with a surface and the peripheral portions provide a support for the tool. The analysis above regarding claim 1 is equally applicable to claim 22.

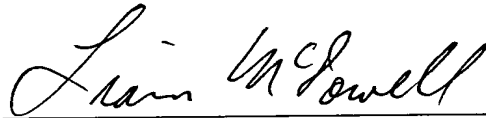
In view of the present amendment and the foregoing Remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Charge the fee of \$50 for the one claim of any type added herewith to deposit account No. 25-0120.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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